THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Improvement of riding-quality in a length of 361.24 Kilometre on National Highways in Bihar at an estimated cost of Rs. 61.92 crore has been sanctioned under Special Repair Crash Programme with target date of completion as 31st March, 2000.

Heavy Traffic on Saraighat Bridge on Brahmaputra

1349. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has assessed the potential danger of routing all traffic to and from Guwahati, through the lone bridge at Saraighat on Brahmaputra in the event of major repair requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and alternative proposals if any, to combat such a situation.

(d) whether his Ministry has positively responded to the proposal of Assam Govemment for constructing another bridge to connect North and South Guwahati; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The bridge at Saraighat on river Brahmaputra is a Rail-cum-Road Bridge which is being maintained by the Railways. The maintenance of such bridges is generally carried out in half widths.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has no proposal for construction of another bridge to coimect North and South Guwahati.